

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image data processing method comprising the steps of:

storing image data of a screen into memory means, said image data having M lines and N pixels in each of said M lines;

reading the image data from the memory means in a unit of block ~~consisting of a predetermined number of~~ having K lines and L pixels in each of said K lines and processing the read image data in the unit of block; and

when the image data is read in the unit of block ~~consisting of the predetermined number of~~ having said K lines and said L pixels and the read image data is short of the unit of block, ~~compensating for a short amount thereof by adding thereto image data from an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means~~ said M lines are divided by said K lines resulting in a first remainder and said N pixels are divided by said L pixels resulting in a second remainder,

wherein a number of lines equal to half of said first remainder is added to an upper end of said image data and a lower end of said image data, and wherein a number of pixels equal to half of said second remainder is added to a left end of said image data and a right end of said image data.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image data processing apparatus comprising:

memory means for storing image data of a screen, said image data having M lines and N pixels in each of said M lines;

memory control means for writing the image data on the memory means and reading the written image data in a unit of block;

signal processing means for performing compression coding process on the image data read from the memory means in the unit of block by the memory control means; and

format setting means for supplying a setting signal indicative of a format used when the image data stored in the memory means is recorded on a recording medium, to the memory control means and the signal processing means,

wherein the memory control means reads the image data from the memory means in a unit of block ~~consisting of a predetermined number of~~ having K lines and L pixels in each of said K lines according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means and, when the image data is short of the unit of block on reading the image data, the memory control means ~~repeatedly reads image data on an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means so as to add the repeatedly read image data thereto to compensate for the short amount thereof~~ divides said M lines by said K lines resulting in a first remainder and divides said N pixels by said L pixels resulting in a second remainder,

wherein a number of lines equal to half of said first remainder is added to an upper end of said image data and a lower end of said image data, and wherein a number of pixels equal to half of said second remainder is added to a left end of said image data and a right end of said image data.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) An image data processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the signal processing means performs compression coding process according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means, on the image data read from the memory means in a unit of block.

6. (Currently Amended) A digital still camera comprising:
means for converting an image signal obtained from an image pickup device into a digital image signal;

memory means for storing image data of a screen of the digital image signal, said image data having M lines and N pixels in each of said M lines;

memory control means for controlling the memory means so as to write image data on the memory means and read the written image data in a unit of block;

signal processing means for performing compression coding process on the image data read from the memory means in the unit of block by the memory control means; and

format setting means for supplying a setting signal indicative of a format used when the image data stored in the memory means is recorded on a recording medium, to the memory control means and the signal processing means,

wherein the memory control means reads the image data from the memory means in a unit of block consisting of ~~a predetermined number of~~ having K lines and L pixels in each of said K lines according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means and, when the image data is short of the unit of block on reading the image data, the memory control means ~~repeatedly reads image data on an end side of an image from the image data of a~~

~~screen stored in the memory means so as to add the repeatedly read image data thereto to thereby~~
~~solve a short amount of image data~~ divides said M lines by said K lines resulting in a first
remainder and divides said N pixels by said L pixels resulting in a second remainder,

wherein a number of lines equal to half of said first remainder is added to an
upper end of said image data and a lower end of said image data, and wherein a number of pixels
equal to half of said second remainder is added to a left end of said image data and a right end of
said image data.

7. (Currently Amended) A digital still camera comprising:

means for converting an image signal obtained from an image pickup device into
a digital image signal;

memory means for storing image data of at least a screen of the digital image
signals, said image data having M lines and N pixels in each of said M lines;

memory control means for controlling the memory means so as to write image
data on the memory means and read the written image data in a unit of block having ~~the number~~
~~of K lines and L pixels in each of said K lines~~ smaller than that of the image data of a screen;

signal processing means for performing compression coding process on the image
data read from the memory means in the unit of block by the memory control means; and

format setting means for supplying a setting signal indicative of a format used
when the image data stored in the memory means is recorded on a recording medium, to the
memory control means and the signal processing means,

wherein the memory control means reads the image data as a plurality of blocks
from the memory means in the unit of block ~~consisting of the predetermined number of~~ having

said K lines and said L pixels according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means and, when the image data is short of the unit of block on reading the image data with respect to a predetermined block among the plurality of blocks, the memory control means ~~forms a block by repeatedly reading image data on an end side of an image from the image data of a screen stored in the memory means so as to add the repeatedly read image data thereto~~ divides said M lines by said K lines resulting in a first remainder and divides said N pixels by said L pixels resulting in a second remainder,

wherein a number of lines equal to half of said first remainder is added to an upper end of said image data and a lower end of said image data, and wherein a number of pixels equal to half of said second remainder is added to a left end of said image data and a right end of said image data.